

PUBLIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses requirements related to the approval of materials for classroom use and certain policies.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires a process for local school boards and charter school governing boards to approve instructional materials for classroom use;
- ▶ requires local education agencies to adopt policies to provide guidance to educators on:
 - the use of materials that have not been approved; and
 - providing a forum for exploration and discussion of controversial issues; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-4-402, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 84, 262, 324, and 345

53G-5-404, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 324

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53G-4-402** is amended to read:

53G-4-402. Powers and duties generally.

(1) A local school board shall:

(a) implement the core standards for Utah public schools using instructional materials that best correlate to the core standards for Utah public schools and graduation requirements;

(b) administer tests, required by the state board, which measure the progress of each student, and coordinate with the state superintendent and state board to assess results and create plans to improve the student's progress, which shall be submitted to the state board for approval;

(c) use progress-based assessments as part of a plan to identify schools, teachers, and students that need remediation and determine the type and amount of federal, state, and local resources to implement remediation;

(d) for each grading period and for each course in which a student is enrolled, issue a grade or performance report to the student:

(i) that reflects the student's work, including the student's progress based on mastery, for the grading period; and

(ii) in accordance with the local school board's adopted grading or performance standards and criteria;

(e) develop early warning systems for students or classes failing to make progress;

(f) work with the state board to establish a library of documented best practices, consistent with state and federal regulations, for use by the local districts;

(g) implement training programs for school administrators, including basic management training, best practices in instructional methods, budget training, staff management, managing for learning results and continuous improvement, and how to help every child achieve optimal learning in basic academic subjects; and

(h) ensure that the local school board meets the data collection and reporting standards described in Section 53E-3-501.

(2) Local school boards shall spend Minimum School Program funds for programs and activities for which the state board has established minimum standards or rules under Section 53E-3-501.

(3) (a) A local school board may purchase, sell, and make improvements on school sites, buildings, and equipment and construct, erect, and furnish school buildings.

(b) School sites or buildings may only be conveyed or sold on local school board resolution affirmed by at least two-thirds of the members.

(4) (a) A local school board may participate in the joint construction or operation of a school attended by children residing within the district and children residing in other districts

either within or outside the state.

(b) Any agreement for the joint operation or construction of a school shall:

(i) be signed by the president of the local school board of each participating district;

(ii) include a mutually agreed upon pro rata cost; and

(iii) be filed with the state board.

(5) A local school board may establish, locate, and maintain elementary, secondary, and applied technology schools.

(6) Except as provided in Section 53E-3-905, a local school board may enroll children in school who are at least five years old before September 2 of the year in which admission is sought.

(7) A local school board may establish and support school libraries.

(8) A local school board may collect damages for the loss, injury, or destruction of school property.

(9) A local school board may authorize guidance and counseling services for children and their parents before, during, or following enrollment of the children in schools.

(10) (a) A local school board shall administer and implement federal educational programs in accordance with Title 53E, Chapter 3, Part 8, Implementing Federal or National Education Programs.

(b) Federal funds are not considered funds within the school district budget under Chapter 7, Part 3, Budgets.

(11) (a) A local school board may organize school safety patrols and adopt policies under which the patrols promote student safety.

(b) A student appointed to a safety patrol shall be at least 10 years old and have written parental consent for the appointment.

(c) Safety patrol members may not direct vehicular traffic or be stationed in a portion of a highway intended for vehicular traffic use.

(d) Liability may not attach to a school district, its employees, officers, or agents or to a safety patrol member, a parent of a safety patrol member, or an authorized volunteer assisting the program by virtue of the organization, maintenance, or operation of a school safety patrol.

(12) (a) A local school board may on its own behalf, or on behalf of an educational institution for which the local school board is the direct governing body, accept private grants,

loans, gifts, endowments, devises, or bequests that are made for educational purposes.

(b) These contributions are not subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

(13) (a) A local school board may appoint and fix the compensation of a compliance officer to issue citations for violations of Subsection 76-10-105(2)(b).

(b) A person may not be appointed to serve as a compliance officer without the person's consent.

(c) A teacher or student may not be appointed as a compliance officer.

(14) A local school board shall adopt bylaws and policies for the local school board's own procedures.

(15) (a) A local school board shall make and enforce policies necessary for the control and management of the district schools.

(b) Local school board policies shall be in writing, filed, and referenced for public access.

(16) A local school board may hold school on legal holidays other than Sundays.

(17) (a) A local school board shall establish for each school year a school traffic safety committee to implement this Subsection (17).

(b) The committee shall be composed of one representative of:

(i) the schools within the district;

(ii) the Parent Teachers' Association of the schools within the district;

(iii) the municipality or county;

(iv) state or local law enforcement; and

(v) state or local traffic safety engineering.

(c) The committee shall:

(i) receive suggestions from school community councils, parents, teachers, and others and recommend school traffic safety improvements, boundary changes to enhance safety, and school traffic safety program measures;

(ii) review and submit annually to the Department of Transportation and affected municipalities and counties a child access routing plan for each elementary, middle, and junior high school within the district;

(iii) consult the Utah Safety Council and the Division of Family Health Services and provide training to all school children in kindergarten through grade 6, within the district, on

126 school crossing safety and use; and

127 (iv) help ensure the district's compliance with rules made by the Department of
128 Transportation under Section 41-6a-303.

129 (d) The committee may establish subcommittees as needed to assist in accomplishing
130 the committee's duties under Subsection (17)(c).

131 (18) (a) A local school board shall adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency
132 response plan to prevent and combat violence in the local school board's public schools, on
133 school grounds, on its school vehicles, and in connection with school-related activities or
134 events.

135 (b) The plan shall:

136 (i) include prevention, intervention, and response components;

137 (ii) be consistent with the student conduct and discipline policies required for school
138 districts under Chapter 11, Part 2, Miscellaneous Requirements;

139 (iii) require professional learning for all district and school building staff on what their
140 roles are in the emergency response plan;

141 (iv) provide for coordination with local law enforcement and other public safety
142 representatives in preventing, intervening, and responding to violence in the areas and activities
143 referred to in Subsection (18)(a); and

144 (v) include procedures to notify a student, to the extent practicable, who is off campus
145 at the time of a school violence emergency because the student is:

146 (A) participating in a school-related activity; or

147 (B) excused from school for a period of time during the regular school day to
148 participate in religious instruction at the request of the student's parent.

149 (c) The state board, through the state superintendent, shall develop comprehensive
150 emergency response plan models that local school boards may use, where appropriate, to
151 comply with Subsection (18)(a).

152 (d) A local school board shall, by July 1 of each year, certify to the state board that its
153 plan has been practiced at the school level and presented to and reviewed by its teachers,
154 administrators, students, and their parents and local law enforcement and public safety
155 representatives.

156 (19) (a) A local school board may adopt an emergency response plan for the treatment

157 of sports-related injuries that occur during school sports practices and events.

158 (b) The plan may be implemented by each secondary school in the district that has a
159 sports program for students.

160 (c) The plan may:

161 (i) include emergency personnel, emergency communication, and emergency
162 equipment components;

163 (ii) require professional learning on the emergency response plan for school personnel
164 who are involved in sports programs in the district's secondary schools; and

165 (iii) provide for coordination with individuals and agency representatives who:

166 (A) are not employees of the school district; and

167 (B) would be involved in providing emergency services to students injured while
168 participating in sports events.

169 (d) The local school board, in collaboration with the schools referred to in Subsection
170 (19)(b), may review the plan each year and make revisions when required to improve or
171 enhance the plan.

172 (e) The state board, through the state superintendent, shall provide local school boards
173 with an emergency plan response model that local school boards may use to comply with the
174 requirements of this Subsection (19).

175 (20) A local school board shall do all other things necessary for the maintenance,
176 prosperity, and success of the schools and the promotion of education.

177 (21) (a) Before closing a school or changing the boundaries of a school, a local school
178 board shall:

179 (i) at least 120 days before approving the school closure or school boundary change,
180 provide notice to the following that the local school board is considering the closure or
181 boundary change:

182 (A) parents of students enrolled in the school, using the same form of communication
183 the local school board regularly uses to communicate with parents;

184 (B) parents of students enrolled in other schools within the school district that may be
185 affected by the closure or boundary change, using the same form of communication the local
186 school board regularly uses to communicate with parents; and

187 (C) the governing council and the mayor of the municipality in which the school is

188 located;

189 (ii) provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed school closure or

190 school boundary change during at least two public local school board meetings; and

191 (iii) hold a public hearing as defined in Section 10-9a-103 and provide public notice of

192 the public hearing as described in Subsection (21)(b).

193 (b) The notice of a public hearing required under Subsection (21)(a)(iii) shall:

194 (i) indicate the:

195 (A) school or schools under consideration for closure or boundary change; and

196 (B) the date, time, and location of the public hearing;

197 (ii) at least 10 days before the public hearing, be:

198 (A) published:

199 (I) in a newspaper of general circulation in the area; and

200 (II) on the Utah Public Notice Website created in Section 63A-16-601; and

201 (B) posted in at least three public locations within the municipality in which the school

202 is located on the school district's official website, and prominently at the school; and

203 (iii) at least 30 days before the public hearing described in Subsection (21)(a)(iii), be

204 provided as described in Subsections (21)(a)(i)(A), (B), and (C).

205 (22) A local school board may implement a facility energy efficiency program

206 established under Title 11, Chapter 44, Performance Efficiency Act.

207 (23) A local school board may establish or partner with a certified youth court in

208 accordance with Section 80-6-902 or establish or partner with a comparable restorative justice

209 program, in coordination with schools in that district. A school may refer a student to a youth

210 court or a comparable restorative justice program in accordance with Section 53G-8-211.

211 (24) A local school board shall:

212 (a) (i) make curriculum that the school district uses readily accessible and available for

213 a parent to view;

214 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) annually notify a parent of a student enrolled in the school district of how to

215 access the information described in Subsection (24)(a)(i); and

216 ~~[(c)]~~ (iii) include on the school district's website information about how to access the

217 information described in Subsection ~~[(24)(a).]~~ (24)(a)(i);

218 (b) in selecting and approving instructional materials and curriculum resources for use

219 in the classroom:
220 (i) establish an open process, involving parents, to review and recommend resources
221 and materials for board approval; and
222 (ii) ensure that under the process described in Subsection (24)(b)(i), the board:
223 (A) posts recommendations online for a period of no less than 30 calendar days to
224 allow for public review;
225 (B) holds a public hearing on any recommendation, materials, or resources before
226 adopting the recommendation or approving the materials or resources that provides an
227 opportunity for parents to express views and opinions on the recommendations, materials, or
228 resources; and
229 (C) approves the materials or resources in an open and regular board meeting for which
230 prior notice is given to parents of students attending the school;
231 (c) adopt a supplemental materials policy that provides guidance to educators on the
232 selection of materials or resources that the local school board has not approved under
233 Subsection (24)(b), including whether any process or permission is required before classroom
234 use of the materials or resources; and
235 (d) adopt a controversial issues policy that:
236 (i) defines what constitutes a controversial issue;
237 (ii) provides guidance to educators regarding the provision of a forum for students to
238 examine and discuss controversial issues in a way that promotes creativity, innovation, and the
239 exploration of ideas; and
240 (iii) includes a requirement that students be free to hold any opinion on a given issue.
241 Section 2. Section **53G-5-404** is amended to read:
242 **53G-5-404. Requirements for charter schools.**
243 (1) A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies,
244 employment practices, and operations.
245 (2) A charter school may not charge tuition or fees, except those fees normally charged
246 by other public schools.
247 (3) A charter school shall meet all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and
248 civil rights requirements.
249 (4) (a) A charter school shall:

- (i) make the same annual reports required of other public schools under this public education code, including an annual financial audit report described in Section 53G-4-404;
- (ii) ensure that the charter school meets the data and reporting standards described in Section 53E-3-501; and
- (iii) use fund and program accounting methods and standardized account codes capable of producing financial reports that comply with:
- (A) generally accepted accounting principles;
- (B) the financial reporting requirements applicable to LEAs established by the state board under Section 53E-3-501; and
- (C) accounting report standards established by the state auditor as described in Section 51-2a-301.
- (b) Before, and as a condition for opening a charter school:
- (i) a charter school shall:
- (A) certify to the authorizer that the charter school's accounting methods meet the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii); or
- (B) if the authorizer requires, conduct a performance demonstration to verify that the charter school's accounting methods meet the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii); and
- (ii) the authorizer shall certify to the state board that the charter school's accounting methods meet the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii).
- (c) A charter school shall file the charter school's annual financial audit report with the Office of the State Auditor within six months of the end of the fiscal year.
- (d) For the limited purpose of compliance with federal and state law governing use of public education funds, including restricted funds, and making annual financial audit reports under this section, a charter school is a government entity governed by the public education code.
- (5) (a) A charter school shall be accountable to the charter school's authorizer for performance as provided in the school's charter agreement.
- (b) To measure the performance of a charter school, an authorizer may use data contained in:
- (i) the charter school's annual financial audit report;

(ii) a report submitted by the charter school as required by statute; or

(iii) a report submitted by the charter school as required by its charter agreement.

(c) A charter school authorizer may not impose performance standards, except as permitted by statute, that limit, infringe, or prohibit a charter school's ability to successfully accomplish the purposes of charter schools as provided in Section 53G-5-104 or as otherwise provided in law.

(6) A charter school may not advocate unlawful behavior.

(7) Except as provided in Section 53G-5-305, a charter school shall be organized and managed under Title 16, Chapter 6a, Utah Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act, after its authorization.

(8) A charter school shall provide adequate liability and other appropriate insurance, including:

(a) general liability, errors and omissions, and directors and officers liability coverage through completion of the closure of a charter school under Section 53G-5-504; and

(b) tail coverage or closeout insurance covering at least one year after closure of the charter school.

(9) Beginning on July 1, 2014, a charter school, including a charter school that has not yet opened, shall submit any lease, lease-purchase agreement, or other contract or agreement relating to the charter school's facilities or financing of the charter school's facilities to the school's authorizer and an attorney for review and advice before the charter school enters the lease, agreement, or contract.

(10) A charter school may not employ an educator whose license is suspended or revoked by the state board under Section 53E-6-604.

(11) (a) Each charter school shall register and maintain the charter school's registration as a limited purpose entity, in accordance with Section 67-1a-15.

(b) A charter school that fails to comply with Subsection (11)(a) or Section 67-1a-15 is subject to enforcement by the state auditor, in accordance with Section 67-3-1.

(c) If a charter school is an operating charter school with affiliated satellite charter schools, as defined in Section 53G-5-303:

(i) the operating charter school shall register as a limited purpose entity as defined in Section 67-1a-15;

(ii) each affiliated satellite charter school is not required to register separately from the operating charter school; and

(iii) the operating charter school shall:

(A) register on behalf of each affiliated satellite charter school; and

(B) when submitting entity registry information under Section 67-1a-15 on behalf of each affiliated satellite charter school, identify and distinguish registry information for each affiliated satellite, including the address of each affiliated satellite charter school and the name and contact information of a primary contact for each affiliated satellite charter school.

(12) (a) As used in this Subsection (12), "contracting entity" means a person with which a charter school contracts.

(b) A charter school shall provide to the charter school's authorizer any information or documents requested by the authorizer, including documents held by a subsidiary of the charter school or a contracting entity:

(i) to confirm the charter school's compliance with state or federal law governing the charter school's finances or governance; or

(ii) to carry out the authorizer's statutory obligations, including liquidation and assignment of assets, and payment of debt in accordance with state board rule, as described in Section 53G-5-504.

(c) A charter school shall comply with a request described in Subsection (12)(b), including after an authorizer recommends closure of the charter school or terminates the charter school's contract.

(d) Documents held by a contracting entity or subsidiary of a charter school that are necessary to demonstrate the charter school's compliance with state or federal law are the property of the charter school.

(e) A charter school shall include in an agreement with a subsidiary of the charter school or a contracting entity a provision that stipulates that documents held by the subsidiary or a contracting entity, that are necessary to demonstrate the charter school's financial compliance with federal or state law, are the property of the charter school.

(13) For each grading period and for each course in which a student is enrolled, a charter school shall issue a grade or performance report to the student:

(a) that reflects the student's work, including the student's progress based on mastery,

for the grading period; and

(b) in accordance with the charter school's adopted grading or performance standards and criteria.

(14) A charter school shall:

(a) (i) make curriculum that the charter school uses readily accessible and available for a parent to view;

~~[(b)]~~ (ii) annually notify a parent of a student enrolled in the charter school of how to access the information described in Subsection (14)(a)(i); and

~~[(c)]~~ (iii) include on the charter school's website information about how to access the information described in Subsection ~~[(14)(a)]~~ (14)(a)(i); and

(b) in selecting and approving instructional materials and curriculum resources for use in the classroom:

(i) establish an open process, involving parents, to review and recommend resources and materials for board approval; and

(ii) ensure that under the process described in Subsection (14)(b)(i), the charter school governing board:

(A) posts recommendations online for a period of no less than 30 calendar days to allow for public review;

(B) holds a public hearing on any recommendation, materials, or resources before adopting the recommendation or approving the materials or resources that provides an opportunity for parents to express views and opinions on the recommendations, materials, or resources; and

(C) approves the materials or resources in an open and regular board meeting for which prior notice is given to parents of students attending the school;

(c) adopt a supplemental materials policy that provides guidance to educators on the selection of materials or resources that the charter school governing board has not approved under Subsection (14)(b), including whether any process or permission is required before classroom use of the materials or resources; and

(d) adopt a controversial issues policy that:

(i) defines what constitutes a controversial issue;

(ii) provides guidance to educators regarding the provision of a forum for students to

374 examine and discuss controversial issues in a way that promotes creativity, innovation, and the
375 exploration of ideas; and
376 (iii) includes a requirement that students be free to hold any opinion on a given issue.